

Name: _____

Date: _____

Section A — Vocabulary & Word Knowledge

Answer each question in the space provided.

1. Look at this vocabulary web for the word **"determined"**. Now create your own vocabulary web for the word **"courageous"**. Write a synonym, an antonym, and use it in a sentence.



2. Read this sentence: "The ancient castle stood on the cliff, its crumbling walls **silhouetted** against the orange sky." What does **silhouetted** most likely mean?

A. Painted brightly	B. Shown as a dark outline
C. Hidden completely	D. Falling apart

3. Write a **synonym** and an **antonym** for each word: **a) enormous** — synonym: _____ antonym: _____ **b) timid** — synonym: _____ antonym: _____ **c) ancient** — synonym: _____ antonym: _____

4. Which word **best** replaces the underlined word? "The girl walked through the dark forest." (Choose the most descriptive option.)

A. went	B. crept
C. moved	D. ran

5. What does the phrase **"butterflies in my stomach"** mean? Is it literal (actually happening) or figurative (means something different)? Explain.

6. The word **"uncomfortable"** has three parts: **un-** + **comfort** + **-able**. What does each part mean? Write two other words that use the prefix **"un-"**.

7. Look at the three text types. A story about a girl who rescues a lost puppy is an example of which type?

Narrative	Persuasive	Informative
Purpose: To entertain or tell a story	Purpose: To convince the reader of something	Purpose: To explain or give facts
Features: Characters, setting, plot, dialogue	Features: Opinion, reasons, emotive language	Features: Headings, facts, diagrams, definitions

A. Narrative	B. Persuasive
C. Informative	D. All of the above

■■ Reading Passage — Read carefully, then answer Sections B and C

The Secret of Shelter Rock

1 Kai pressed his back against the sandstone wall and listened. The wind howled across the ridge like a wounded animal, sending red dust swirling into the afternoon sky. He should have turned back an hour ago, when the first clouds rolled in from the west, but the narrow trail through the gorge had been too tempting to ignore.

2 Now the sky was the colour of a bruise — dark purple and angry — and fat drops of rain were beginning to splash against the rock. Kai pulled his cap lower over his eyes and scanned the cliff face. There had to be shelter somewhere.

3 "Over here!" called a voice. Kai spun around. A girl about his age was standing on a ledge above him, her arm waving. Her school uniform was covered in red dust and her hair was tangled with twigs, but she was grinning as if she'd just won a prize.

4 "There's a cave," she said, pointing behind her. "It goes back about five metres. Completely dry inside." She reached down a hand. Kai hesitated for only a moment, then grabbed it and scrambled up the rock.

5 The cave was exactly as she'd described — cool, dry, and deep enough to block the wind. Someone had been here before: a circle of blackened stones sat in the centre, and scratched into the wall were shapes that looked like animals.

6 "I'm Anya," said the girl, settling cross-legged on the sandy floor. She pulled a squashed muesli bar from her pocket and broke it in half, offering one piece to Kai without being asked.

7 "Thanks," said Kai, surprised. "I'm Kai. How did you find this place?" Anya's eyes lit up. "My grandmother told me about it. She says the Noongar people used this cave for thousands of years — those markings on the wall are proof." She pointed to the scratched shapes reverently. "We're sitting in someone else's story."

8 Outside, the storm crashed and roared. Inside the cave, the two of them sat in comfortable silence, watching the rain turn the red earth into rivers. Kai decided that sometimes the best adventures are the ones you don't plan.

■ ■ Section B — Comprehension

Answer using evidence from the passage. Use line numbers where helpful.

8. Where is this story set?

A. A beach near a lighthouse	B. A gorge in a rocky, bushland area
C. A park during a school excursion	D. A cave in the mountains at night

9. Why did Kai not turn back when the first clouds appeared? (Line 1)

A. He was lost and couldn't find the way	B. The trail through the gorge was too tempting
C. Anya called him to follow her	D. He wanted to find the cave paintings

10. Find **two words or phrases** from the passage that tell you the weather was getting dangerous. Write the line number where you found each one.

11. In line 3, Anya is "**grinning as if she'd just won a prize.**" What does this tell us about Anya's personality? How is her reaction different from what you might expect?

12. Compare **Kai** and **Anya**. How are they similar? How are they different? Use at least **two pieces of evidence** from the text to support your answer.

13. The author writes the sky was "**the colour of a bruise — dark purple and angry**" (line 2). This is an example of figurative language. What two techniques are used here? (Hint: one compares things, one gives human qualities to something non-human.) Explain the effect.

14. Anya says "**We're sitting in someone else's story**" (line 7). What does she mean by this? Why do you think the author chose to include the Noongar cave history?

■ ■ Section C — Analysis & Structure

*These questions ask you to think about **how** the author wrote the story, not just what happens.*

15. Use the story mountain to map "**The Secret of Shelter Rock**". Write what happens at each stage:

Orientation: _____ **Rising Action:**

Climax:

Falling Action:

Resolution:



16. This story is written in which point of view?

A. First person ("I went...")	B. Second person ("You went...")
C. Third person limited (follows one character)	D. Third person omniscient (knows all characters' thoughts)

17. Look at the dialogue (characters talking) in lines 6–7. Choose **one line of dialogue** and explain what it reveals about the character who says it. What would be lost if the author had summarised instead of using direct speech?

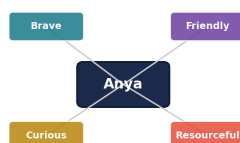
18. The story begins with action — Kai pressed against a wall in a storm — rather than with "Once upon a time." Why do you think the author chose to start this way? What effect does it have on the reader?

19. The last sentence is: "*Kai decided that sometimes the best adventures are the ones you don't plan.*" What is the **theme** or **message** of this story? Do you agree with Kai? Give an example from your own life.

Section D — Creative Response

Write detailed answers. Show your skills as a writer!

20. This character trait map shows four traits for Anya. Choose **two** traits and find **evidence from the text** that proves each one.



21. Write a **short paragraph** (5–8 sentences) describing what happens **after the storm ends**. Do Kai and Anya explore the cave further? Do they find something? Include: a description of the setting, a line of dialogue, and one example of figurative language.

22. Rewrite this **plain sentence** to make it more interesting and descriptive. Use at least **two** techniques (adjectives, simile, metaphor, personification, or sensory language): *"The rain fell on the ground."* Your version: _____

Techniques used: _____

■ CHALLENGE EXTENSION — Above Year Level

These questions push beyond Year 4. Give them a go if you're up for a challenge!

E1. The author uses the **weather** to reflect Kai's emotions throughout the story — dangerous storm = fear, warm cave = safety, rain ending = hope. This technique is called **pathetic fallacy**. Find another book or movie where the weather matches a character's feelings and describe how it works.

E2. Rewrite **lines 1–2** of the passage from **Anya's point of view** (first person — "I"). What would she notice, think, and feel while waiting on the ledge before she sees Kai? Write at least 6 sentences.

E3. The story mentions that **Noongar people** used the cave for thousands of years. Research or imagine: write a **short informative paragraph** (not a narrative) about the cave. Include a heading, at least two facts, and a concluding sentence. Notice how your writing style changes from narrative to informative.
